

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

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AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

USMISSION BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD BY POUCH

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD AND DAMASCUS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR EG UR XF

SUBJ: GROMYKO VISIT TO EGYPT

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1. SUMMARY. OUR READING OF SOVIET-EGYPTAIN COMMUNIQUE FOLLOWING GROMYKO'S CAIRO VISIT SUGGESTS THERE WAS SOME TIGHT HORSE TRADING. SOVIETS, FOR THEIR PART, RECEIVED EGYPTIAN ENDORSEMENT OF FULL SOVIET INVOLVEMENT IN THE GENEVA CONFERENCE AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT THAT MEPC IS THE VENUE FOR A ME SETTLEMENT. EGYPTIANS ALSO AGREED TO CONTINUED SOVIET-EGYPTAIN COORDINATION OF ACTIONS AND CONSULTATION AND PLEDGED THAT NO ONE WILL BE ALLOWED TO DAMAGE SOVIET-EGYPTIAN RELATIONS. SOVIETS AVOIDED PUBLIC ENDORSEMENT OF ARAFAT'S PLO AS SOLE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PALESTINIANS, BUT EGYPTAINS GOT SOME MOVEMENT FROM SOVIETS ON PLO IN FACT THAT GROMYKO HELD MEETING WITH ARAFAT. EGYPTIANS APPARENTLY SUCCEEDING IN WEAKENING COMMUNIQUE LANGUAGE REGARDING SOVIET INVOLVEMENT IN EGYPTAIN CONDUCT OF ME NEGOTIATIONS AT GENEVA, AND ALSO RECEIVED PUBLIC SOVIET PLEDGE TO ASSIST IN SUEZ RESTORATION. END SUMMARY.

2. BILATERAL PORTIONS OF SOVIET-EGYPTAIN COMMUNIQUE (PARA MARCH 6) CONTAIN STANDARD AFFIRMATION OF FRIENDSHIP ON BASIS OF 1971 SOVIET-EGYPTAIN TREATY AND REFERENCE TO SIGNIFICANCE OF THESE RELATIONS. IN PROBABLE RECOGNITION OF SENSITIVITIES ABOUT IMPROVED EGYPTIAN-U.S. RELATIONS, HOWEVER, COMMUNIQUE ADDS NEW CAVEAT THAT PARTIES "WILL NOT ALLOW ANYBODY TO DAMAGE THESE RELATIONS." SOVIET AGREEMENT "IN PRINCIPLE" TO ASSIST IN SUEZ CANAL RESTORATION IS NO DOUBT A PLUS FROM THE EGYPTAIN VIEW. BUT ABSENCE OF A POSITIVE RESPONSE TO SADAT'S INVITATION TO BREZHNEV LEAVES OPEN QUESTION OF WHETHER EGYPTAINS WON ON THIS ISSUE.

3. ON ME SITUATION COMMUNIQUE AFFIRMS COMMITMENT OF BOTH PARTIES TO JUST AND LASTING ME SETTLEMENT ON BASIS OF SC RESOLUTION 242 AND 338. BASIS FOR PEACE IS CHARACTERIZED BY STANDARD SOVIET FORMULA CALLING FOR TOTAL ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM ALL OCCUPIED TERRITORIES AND SECURING OF "LEGITIMATE RIGHTS" OF THE PALESTINIANS. COMMUNIQUE MAKES LINKAGE BETWEEN EGYPTAIN-ISRAELI LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DISENGAGEMENT AND GENERAL ME SETTLEMENT, AS DID STATEMENT ON DISENGAGEMENT IN COMMUNIQUE FOLLOWING FAHMI'S VISIT HERE IN JANUARY.

4. COMMUNIQUE REAFFIRMS PARTIES' POSITIVE VIEW ON CALLING OF GENEVA PEACE CONFERENCE AND THEIR READINESS FOR PRACTICAL EXAMINATION OF ALL ASPECTS OF ME SETTLEMENT "WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE GENEVA CON-

REFERENCE." HOWEVER, REFERENCE TO SOVIET ROLE VIS-A-VIS EGYPTAIN CONDUCT OF GENEVA NEGOTIATIONS APPEARS TO KEEP SOVIETS AT GREATER DISTANCE THAN DID JANUARY COMMUNIQUE FORMULATION. CURRENT COMMUNIQUE AFFIRMS "THAT IT IS NECESSARY AND IMPORTANT THAT THE SOVIET UNION TAKE PART IN ALL THE STAGE OF THE MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT INCLUDING ALL THE WORKING ORGANS THAT WILL BE SET UP AT GENEVE CONFERENCE." IT LEAVES TO SEPARATE PARAGRAPH STATEMENT ON NEED FOR SOVIET-EGYPTAIN EXCHANGE OF OPINION AND COORDINATION OF ACTIONS. (JANUARY DOCUMENT EMPHASIZED THAT "CLOSE COORDINATION OF ACTIONS OF THE SOVIET UNION AND EGYPT AT ALL STAGES OF THIS STRUGGLE, INCLUDING IN THE WORK OF THE PEACE CONFERENCE ON THE MIDDLE EAST IN ALL ITS WORKING BODIES THAT MAY BE FORMED" WAS AN IMPORTANT FACTOR IN ATTAINING A ME SETTLEMENT.)

5. ON PALESTINIANS, PASSAGE OF COMMUNIQUE ON GROMYKO'S MEETING WITH ARAFAT (OMITTED FROM TASS ENGLISH WIRE SUMMARY) SAYS THEY DISCUSSED QUESTIONS REGARDING SECURING OF PALESTINIAN "LEGITIMATE RIGHTS" IN SPIRIT OF "MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING AND FRIENDSHIP". REGARDING PALESTINIAN ROLE AT GENEVA, COMMUNIQUE CALLS ONLY FOR PARTICIPATION BY REPRESENTATIVES OF PALESTINIANS WITHOUT DESIGNATING PLO. TEXT ALSO OMITTS CALL FOR THEIR PARTICIPATION "IN THE NEAREST FUTURE" CONTAINED IN JANUARY COMMUNIQUE.
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